

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

CIEP-02 FAA-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00 PPTE-00

PRS-01 EA-09 /051 W

----- 089478

O 231634Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8002

INFO FAA BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

ZEN AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI IMMEDIATE 2268

UNCLAS ATHENS 12496

ROME FOR RCAA AND FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CASC, GR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - OLYMPIC AIRWAYS AIRCRAFT CRASH

1. OLYMPIC AIRWAYS AIRCRAFT NIHON YS-11A-520, SX-BBR FLIGHT
OA 830 ATHENS-LARISA-KOZANI, CRASHED NEAR METAXAS VILLAGE IN
MOUNTANINOUS AREA SOUTH OF KOZANI. ACCORDING TO
AVAILABLE INFORMATION AIRCRAFT DEPARTED ATHENS AT
0820 HOURS CARRYING 46 PASSENGERS AND 4 CREW MEMBERS.
BECAUSE OF HEAVY OVERCAST, AIRCRAFT WAS DENIED PERMISSION
TO LAND AT LARISA AND IT CONTINUED FLIGHT TO KOZANI.
RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST AT 0946 HOURS, WHILE AIRCRAFT
WAS FLYING 15 MILES SOUTH OF KOZANI. AIRCRAFT WAS LOCATED
BY RESCUE AIRCRAFT AT 1300 HOURS AND RESCUE PARTIES WERE ABLE TO
REACH THE AREA AT 1330 HOURS. OLYMPIC AIRWAYS OFFICIAL HAS
INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL GENDARMERIE,
SEVENTEEN DEAD WERE REPORTEDLY RECOVERED OUTSIDE THE AIRCRAFT,
WHILE THE REST ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BURNED INSIDE THE AIRCRAFT
WHICH BURST INTO FLAMES AFTER THE CRASH. NAMES OF FOREIGN
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PASSENGERS, AS REPORTED BY OLYMPIC AIRWAYS ARE: HOELZER, KNOEBL,

CAMPBELL (MALE AND FEMALE), LLOYD AND LEWIS. LATTER TWO REPORTED TO BE BRITISH NATIONALS. MR. AND MRS. JACK CAMPBELL SAID TO BE US CITIZENS. COMMENT: THIS WAS THE SECOND JAPANESE-BUILT OLYMPIC-OPERATED NIHON YS-11 LOST. THE FIRST WENT INTO THE SEA WHILE APPROACHING ATHENS AIRPORT IN OCTOBER 1972. DURING THIS FIRST ACCIDENT 36 PERSONS WERE KILLED.

2. WE ARE INFORMED BY MR. PAUL DANOWA, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HELLENIC FOOD INDUSTRIES (DEL MONTE SUBSIDIARY) THAT CAMPBELLS ARE MR. JACK C. CAMPBELL, AGE 45, AGRICULTURAL MANAGER OF ABOVE NAMED COMPANY AND WIFE, JOAN BAIR CAMPBELL. BOTH ARE SAID BY DANOWA TO BE AMERICAN CITIZENS. THE WIFE JOAN BAIR CAMPBELL IS REGISTERED AT EMBASSY AS BORN FEBRUARY 10, 1932, AT DECATUR, ILLINOIS, HOLDING U.S. PASSPORT E 2326227 ISSUED NOVEMBER 14, 1974 AT CHICAGO. NEXT OF KIN FOR MRS. CAMPBELL IS LISTED AS BROTHER, DR. JAMES BAIR OF 3604 WELLS FARGO, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA. EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION RE JACK C. CAMPBELL, AND DANOWA REFUSING SUPPLY DETAILS T O EMBASSY UNTIL NEXT OF KIN NOTIFIED BY DEL MONTE. DANOWA STATES, HOWEVER, THAT CAMPBELLS HAVE FOUR SONS, ONE OF WHOM IN GREECE ENROUTE TO LARISSA, WHERE DANOWA INTENDS MEET AND INFORM RE DEATHS OF PARENTS.

3. UPDATE AS OF 1800 HOURS TIME; EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM GENDARMERIE SOURCES THAT 25 BODIES NOW RECOVERED, BUT WITH EXCEPTION THREE SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM NONE IDENTIFIABLE. BODIES TO BE TAKEN TO NEAREST TOWN WITH HOSPITAL. WE BELIEVE THAT WILL BE KOZANI.

4. AIRCRAFT LOCATED 10 KLMS SOUTH OF VILLAGE OF SERVIA AND 7 KLMS NORTHWEST OF VILLAGE OF METAXAS.
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